

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on March 15, 2004 (Paper No. 13), the Examiner: allowed claims 27-35; indicated that claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; rejected claims 1-8, 13, 14, 18-20, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2001/0049623 by Aggarwal et al. ("Aggarwal"); and rejected claims 9-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aggarwal and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0154157 by Sherr et al. ("Sherr"). In this response, Applicants cancel claims 1-14, 25 and 26, and amend claims 15 and 16. As a result, claims 15, 16 and 27-35 are pending. Further examination and review in view of the amendments and remarks below are respectfully requested.

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for indicating that claims 15, 15 and 27-35 are allowable over the prior art.

I. Claim Status

Applicants respectfully point out that claims 21-24 and 36-39 were "withdrawn" and not "cancelled" as indicated by the Examiner.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 14, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to include the elements of their base claim 14 in this response, and is now in condition for allowance.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

In this response, Applicants cancel claims 1-14, 25 and 26, rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot.

IV. Conclusion

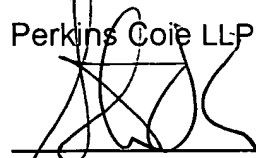
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15, 16 and 27-35 are now allowable and ask that this application be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,

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